

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 00375 091921Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-02
PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 DHA-02 EB-08 /094 W
-----092352Z 113789 /66

R 091845Z FEB 77
FM USMISSION USUN NY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2359
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS USUN 0375

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, UN, ECOSOC, SHUM
SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM

REF: USUN 352

TRANSMITTED BELOW IS TEXT OF LETTER FROM GHANA MISSION
TO THE UN WHICH HAS BEEN FORMALLY DISTRIBUTED (DOCUMENT
E/5911) IN WHICH THE GOG FORMALLY WITHDRAWS ITS
OFFER TO HOST SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

QUOTE

WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 1977 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF
GHANA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO INFORM YOU, UNDER STRUCTIONS, THAT CONTRARY
TO ITS EXPECTATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS FOUND IT
NECESSARY TO WITHDRAW ITS OFFER TO HOST THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO
COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ACCRA IN 1978 AS
ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

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OWING TO THE VERY DEEP COMMITMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE
OF GHANA TO THE TOTAL ERADICATION OF RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
AND APARTHEID, PARTICULARLY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, IT WAS ONLY AFTER
THE MOST SERIOUS AND THOROUGH EXAMINATION OF ALL THE ISSUES
INVOLVED AND A GREAT DEAL OF SOUL SEARCHING THAT THE GOVERNMENT
OF GHANA ARRIVED AT THIS MOST DIFFICULT DECISION.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF GHANA ARE AWARE OF THE READINESS WITH WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS, THROUGH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, KINDLY ACCEPTED THEIR OFFER TO HOST THE WORLD CONFERENCE. THE GOVERNMENT IS EVEN MORE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ITS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2609 (XXIV) OF 16 DECEMBER 1969, PARTICULARLY, IN CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT GHANA IS ONE OF THE COUNTRIES MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED BY THE CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS, BY ADOPTING ITS RESOLUTION 31/76 OF 13 DECEMBER 1976.

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA HAS COME TO THE UNAVOIDABLE CONCLUSION THAT THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURE THAT WOULD BE ENTAILED IN ENSURING THE BEST POSSIBLE ATMOSPHERE FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE WOULD BE BEYOND ITS PRESENT CAPABILITY TO ASSUME.

IT IS THEREFORE WITH THE DEEPEST REGRET THAT I HAVE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE OFFER MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA TO HOST THE WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IS HEREBY WITHDRAWN.

IT IS THE HOPE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA THAT THIS INFORMATION WILL BE CONSIDERED IN THE SAME LIGHT IN WHICH ITS OFFER WAS SO KINDLY ACCEPTED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

I HAVE ALREADY TAKEN THE LIBERTY TO INFORM BOTH THE PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE LIAISON OFFICE IN NEW YORK OF THE DIVISION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA.

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I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD PUBLISH THIS LETTER AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL.

(SIGNED) T.B. SAM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770047-0008
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770256/aaaabxto.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ffbf18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 USUN NEW YORK 352
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3359317
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM
TAGS: EGEN, SHUM, UN, ECOSOC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ffbf18c9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009